

# CHICAGO Sun-Times

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## Some CIA spy secrecy needed, Walters declares

By Martin Gershen

The deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency warned here Saturday that conducting CIA operations through a "gold fish bowl" is a danger to the security of the country.

"Intelligence-gathering is vital if the United States is to survive as a nation. If the whole question of exposing our secrets doesn't stay within measure, we're going to be in trouble," said Lt. Gen. Vernon A. Walters, noting that spying is as old as the nation.

The tall, powerfully built military officer addressed some 200 former intelligence agents and their wives at the 29th annual convention of the National Counter Intelligence Corps Assn.

Walters, who speaks eight languages fluently and has been an interpreter for Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower and Richard M. Nixon, jokingly lamented the fact that U.S. intelligence got off to a bad start in the Revolutionary War.

"Not only was Nathan Hale our first agent, but he got caught on his first mission," Walters said.

Despite the current public "assault" on the intelligence community, Walters recalled that spying and intercepting mail were not uncommon in the Revolutionary War.

He said George Washington tried to kidnap Benedict Arnold and Benjamin Franklin intercepted British mail three years before the war began.

When Franklin was sent to Paris, Walters claimed, he obtained printing presses to use in forging passports and other documents.

And John Jay, he noted, maintained a listening post in Jersey City, N.J. where he interviewed travelers entering and leaving British-occupied New York.

Directly criticizing the press, Walters noted that newspapers and other publications are among the nation's greatest sources of information.

"Russian intelligence is so swamped with information, their problem is to discern the real from the phony," he said.

Walters said U.S. official once told him it was too bad a plot to assassinate Adolf Hitler in 1944 failed.

"It would have been great if it had succeeded. But it would have been greater if Hitler could have been assassinated in 1937. Think of how many lives would have been saved" Walters said the official told him.

Walters defended drug experimentation by recalling that in the 1950s it was feared the Communists had a drug that could be used against Ameri-

cans. He noted that Cardinal Mindszenty of Hungary had withstood Nazi pressures without breaking.

"But he was ready to confess to the Communists," Walters said.

He added that some U.S. GIs captured in the Korean war became the first U.S. soldiers in history who refused to go home.

These examples, he said, made U.S. officials fear the Communists had a drug that could make enemies helpless.

# Chicago Tribune

THE WORLD'S GREATEST NEWSPAPER

Chicago Tribune, Sunday, August 3, 1975

## CIA's top aide defends U.S. need for secrecy

By John Gorman

THE UNITED STATES may have to conduct its affairs in a "fishbowl" as a result of congressional investigations of the Central Intelligence Agency, the CIA deputy director predicted here Saturday night.

Lt. Gen. Vernon Walters, number two man at the CIA, said that if any country could function in the "fishbowl" conditions, the U.S. would be the first to do so.

Speaking to an enthusiastic audience of more than 200 persons at the National Counter Intelligence Corps Association dinner in the Sheraton-Chicago Hotel, Walters warned the former World War II intelligence officers that the "wreckers are getting ready to dismantle the intelligence service again."

"We're told today that it is unAmerican to have things secret," he said.

TO COMBAT this notion, Walters quoted George Washington who told a subordinate in a letter that the "need for procuring good intelligence is so obvious" that it need hardly be mentioned.

While ambassador to France, Benjamin Franklin ran a printing press forging passports, Walters reminded the crowd.

Walters defended the CIA as a reflection of the American people, made up of average Americans. He said that the CIA conception of what is right and wrong reflects the attitudes of the citizens. If that conception changes, he said, "we are perfectly willing to change also."

DEFENDING THE CIA's recently disclosed role in the 1953 suicide of a civilian Army employee who had been given

LSD, Walters recalled the public sentiment at the time.

"It was a time when fighting men for the first time in history were refusing to come back home from the Korean War. [Josef] Cardinal Mindzenty appeared hollow-eyed and confessed. The feeling at the time was that this had been done with drugs. we were convinced the other side was using mind-controlling drugs," Walters said.

There is a current popular idea that "we must throw everything out and thus be cleansed. But if we do this, we may well be cleaned out. This idea is insanity insofar as the safety of the United States is concerned," he said.

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*At counterintelligence convention*

## CIA officer defends acts amid cheers

by BOB LAHEY

Members of the American intelligence establishment are not convinced that detente is just around the corner, nor are they ready to don kid gloves in dealing with America's opponents.

A group of former military intelligence agents gathered in Chicago Saturday night and cheered a ranking officer of the CIA who came to defend the intelligence establishment against current "innuendoes and abuses."

Lt. Gen. Vernon A. Walters, deputy director of the CIA, addressed about 500 persons at the annual convention of the National C.I.C. Assn., an organization of former agents of the U.S. Army Counterintelligence Corps. Ar-



Vernon Walters

lington Heights attorney Stephen Jurco, president of the organization, hosted the convention.

THESE FORMER "counterspies" applauded enthusiastically when Walters indirectly defended the CIA against allegations that it may have had a hand in foreign assassination plots.

He quoted a friend who recently commented: "If Adolf Hitler had been assassinated in 1944, it would have been great. But if he had been assassinated in 1937 or 1938, think of the lives we could have saved."

Walters argued for the continuing necessity of a far-flung intelligence effort. "The great mass of people do not sense any threat to us," he declared.

"At a time when we need watchfulness and vigilance, there is a feeling that there is something shameful

about intelligence."

Walters also made indirect reference to stories of covert experimentation with LSD and other drugs by the CIA. Citing the notorious brainwashing of Hungary's Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty in 1948, Walters said it was the consensus of American intelligence analysts that Mindszenty's treason "confession" was brought about through the use of unknown drugs.

"That is what led to what happened," he said.

WALTERS ALSO defended intelligence operations on historical grounds. He said George Washington attempted to kidnap Benedict Arnold; Benjamin Franklin intercepted British

mail; John Jay quizzed travelers who visited British-occupied New York.

Walters said much American intelligence is gathered overtly from foreign publications and from analyzing technical data.

But, intelligence cannot be carried out without the "human" element meaning secret agents, he said. Technical intelligence won't get you inside a building or inside a man's head.

Walters also asserted the fears of a runaway CIA, without congressional control, are unfounded. "We have secrets from our Congressional Oversight committees," he said. "We can live with any guidelines they prescribe."